

## PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
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## For Immediate Release

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## EIGHT CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE ECSTACY

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced the unsealing of an indictment yesterday charging eight individuals with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute MDMA, commonly known as "ecstacy." Named in the indictment are: Hung Van Vo, a 29 year old resident of Trinity, Florida; Dung Quoc Nguyen, a 32 year old resident of Orlando, Florida; Thao Thach Huong Dao, a 30 year old resident of Orlando, Florida; Matthew Allen Traun, a 26 year old resident of Ormond Beach, Florida; Thep Souksanom, a 25 year old resident of Orlando, Florida; Stacie Letice Munoz, a 31 year old resident of Orlando, Florida; Jorge D. Cervantes, a 45 year old resident of Ponce Inlet, Florida; and Viet Trung Ho, a 26 year old resident of North Saint Petersburg, Florida. The maximum penalties the defendants face, if convicted, are 20 years' imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000,000.

Two of the defendants, Dung Quoc Nguyen and Thao Thach Huong Dao, were charged earlier by a complaint filed on October 12, 2006. They were released on \$100,000 bond pending further proceedings in the case.

Yesterday, agents arrested Hung Van Vo and Viet Trung Ho in the Tampa area, where the two defendants made an initial appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Mark A. Pizzo late in the afternoon. Thep Souksanom was arrested in Orlando, and Jorge D. Cervantes was arrested in Volusia County. Matthew Traun Allen surrendered to the U.S. Marshal in Orlando. Souksanom, Allen, and Cervantes appeared before United States Magistrate Judge James G. Glazebrook for their initial appearance and arraignment. All three men pleaded not guilty. Stacie Letice Munoz has not been arrested and is still at large.

According to the indictment and information, during September and October of this year the defendants conspired to distribute ecstacy in central Florida, including Orange and Volusia counties. Hung Van Vo was identified as the supplier of approximately 20,000 ecstacy tablets to Dung Quoc Nguyen, who in turn, supplied them to Matthew Traun Allen. Allen supplied a sample quantity of the ecstacy tablets to Jorge D. Cervantes as part of a larger deal for the 20,000 tablets.

The case was investigated by US. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Drug Enforcement Administration and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bruce S. Ambrose.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.